RESOLUTION 2016 - 41

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, DESIGNATING THE RED MANGROVE TREE AS THE CITY’S OFFICIAL TREE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Peace 4 Tarpon has proposed that the City of Tarpon Springs adopt the Red Mangrove as its City Tree and the Board of Commissioners desires to officially designate the Red Mangrove as its City Tree, and;

WHEREAS, the Red Mangrove, also called “walking tree” due to its special roots, is a symbol of resilience and adaptability, mirroring the qualities of Tarpon Springs’ residents, and;

WHEREAS, the Red Mangrove serve as nurseries for wildlife in the Gulf and provide hatcheries for many varieties of fish, including snook, snapper, tarpon, jack and red drum. The roots also serve as nursery habitats for sponge, oysters, barnacles, crab, clams, and shrimp.

WHEREAS, Red Mangroves protect the shore from wind and tidal surge, and filter pollutants, and;

WHEREAS, Red Mangroves encourage education about our natural systems and provide learning opportunities for our youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS:

Section 1. That the Red Mangrove shall hereafter be recognized as the official tree of the City of Tarpon Springs.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.
Monday, October 11, 2016

Dear Tarpon Springs City Council:

The Suncoast Sierra Club, on behalf of our 3,000 members, writes this letter in support of the City of Tarpon Springs adopting the Red Mangrove as its City Tree. The City of Tarpon Springs has the most miles of shoreline in all of Pinellas County and exhibits a thriving and robust Red Mangrove population. As Tarpon Springs is one of the very few working waterfronts remaining in Florida, this is especially significant.

- Mangroves are a nursery for the Gulf and their roots provide hatcheries for 75% of commercially caught fish including snook, Snapper, Tarpon, Jack and Red Drum among others.
- The more mangrove trees, the more robust and closer to shore commercial and sport fishing can occur.
- The roots also serve as nursery habitat for Sponge, Oysters, Barnacles, Crab, Clams and Shrimp. Many of these species also assist in water filtration.
- The leaf canopy of Mangroves also serves as rookeries for birds.
- Red Mangroves provide billions of dollars of service; building land as the sediment settles at the roots, protecting the shore from wind and tidal surge, filtering pollutants coming from shore and scrubbing the air more effectively than terrestrial forests.
- As Tarpon’s City Tree, the Red Mangrove would encourage education about our natural systems and provide learning opportunities for youth.
- Perhaps most of all, the Red Mangrove is a symbol of resilience and adaptability- mirroring the finest qualities of Tarpon Springs' residents.

For all of the reasons listed above, and more too numerous to mention here, The Sierra Club heartily endorses and encourages The City of Tarpon Springs to adopt the unique and adaptive Red Mangrove as its City Tree.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the adoption of the Red Mangrove as the official tree of the City of Tarpon Springs.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hinton
Chair - Executive Committee
Suncoast Group of Sierra Club
I’m writing this letter both as a small business owner and as a citizen of Tarpon Springs. I very much support the adoption of the Red Mangrove as the Official City Tree. It’s a symbol of resilience and sustainability, which I think any city would want to choose as characteristics to be known for. And because there are so many of these native to the area, it seems like a natural choice. In addition, having a symbol for the city would certainly provide good marketing opportunities, and the many natural gifts that these trees provide are certainly worth teaching our children (and residents) about.

Thank you for your consideration,
Judy Kane
615 Bayside Dr
804-314-7611
The Honorable Chris Alahouzos, Mayor of Tarpon Springs,
   The Honorable Townsend Tarapani, Vice Mayor of Tarpon Springs,
   and Members of the Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners
   Tarpon Springs City Hall
   324 East Pine Street
   Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

Dear Mayor Alahouzos, Vice Mayor Tarapani, and Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of the proposal to adopt the Red Mangrove as the city tree of Tarpon Springs.

The Red Mangrove works hard for Tarpon Springs and indeed for all the Gulf, as the Sierra Club’s recent letter in support of this proposal illustrates. In a very real sense, the Red Mangrove holds us together and links us from the fertile depths of the Gulf to our heavenly clouds and air.

The Red Mangrove would add a striking graphic symbol of natural strength, renewal and unity to our already-rich collection of symbols such as the Sponge Diver, the Epiphany Cross, our Cultural Treasures, and our flags.

I hope that the Red Mangrove will be designated as the city tree of Tarpon Springs.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hudson Kopala

Lynn Hudson Kopala
Tarpon Springs resident
1690 Water Oak Drive
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

727 940 4975
lynnkopala@hotmail.com
Dear Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners,

Please accept this letter of support for adopting the Red Mangrove Tree as the Official Tree for the City of Tarpon Springs.

Technically called Rhizophora Mangle, commonly referred as the Red Mangrove, is a tree that is native to our shores and hales of both a Greek and Spanish heritage.

It’s wood is very hard and sturdy and was probably first utilizes as lumber for boats and shelter by our earliest of settlers.

Much like our own community, it represents diversity and resiliency. Dear to our thriving fishing and sponge industry, the Red Mangrove offers a safe and diverse breeding habitat for many types of fish, crab, bird and animal species.

It’s extensive and complex root system helps filter out brackish water much like our newly constructed and successful city water treatment facility.

This noble tree is very important to the longevity and livelihood of our coastal community in many ways and I recommend we collectively and proudly claim it as our official tree.

I appreciate your consideration regarding the adoption of the Red Mangrove Tree.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen Corrado
Tarpon Springs Resident
October 20, 2016

Dear Mayor Alahouzos and Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners,

This is a letter of support for The City of Tarpon Springs to adopt the Red Mangrove as its official City Tree.

The Red Mangrove is a resilient tree, just as Tarpon Springs is a resilient city. It is a hard working tree, as are the people of Tarpon Springs. It serves as a nursery for many fish – Snook, Snapper, Tarpon, Jack, and Red Drum and as a habitat for sponges, oysters, barnacles, shrimp and other species. Red Mangroves also provide rookeries for many birds and protects the shores of our working waterfront and coastline. Tarpon Springs has the most miles of shoreline in Pinellas County and showcases a thriving and robust Red Mangrove population.

The Red Mangrove is the natural choice for this honor and I sincerely encourage you to adopt the Red Mangrove as The City Tree of Tarpon Springs.

Sincerely,

Wendy Sediacek
Peace4Tarpon Program Manager
-----Original Message-----
From: Sarah [mailto:sarah@highercc.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2016 3:53 PM
To: Trish Hickey <thickey@ctsfl.us>
Subject: Red Mangrove

Greetings, I am a tarpon resident and business owner (Snap Fitness Tarpon Springs), and would like to voice my support of the red mangrove as the official tree of Tarpon Springs. I think it is a perfect representation of the sense of community we have here.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Sarah Edwards
727-238-9062
Greetings,

On behalf of the Tarpon Springs' Gro Group, Paula, Claire and the whole gang heartily support the City adopting the Red Mangrove as the official City Tree. We see the opportunity here to showcase the importance of the Red Mangrove (and all species of Mangroves!) to our local and global ecology. We support this effort 150 percent! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Paula Littlefield
Date: October 31, 2016  
To: Mayor Alahouzos and Staff of the City of Tarpon Springs  
From: Cathie Foster, Chairman, Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
RE: Support of the Red Mangrove as the City Logo  

Dear Mayor Alahouzos and Staff:

Please add our support of the Red Mangrove Tree as the city logo. As the city of Tarpon Springs provides for and protects its community, the Red Mangrove provides for and protects estuarine animals and the shoreline. Red Mangroves are an integral part of Tarpon Springs, growing nearly every place the shoreline meets the river and bayous. They provide a host of environmental jobs for the environment including:

- Stabilizing the shoreline, protecting it from erosion
- Providing small fish, crab, and shrimp places to hide from predators during high tide
- Protecting inland areas from pounding surf during storms and hurricanes
- Providing surface space for algae to grow, a good food source for small fish, crabs, and shrimp

Please feel free to contact me.

Please retain this letter for tax purposes.  
FEID #59-3302182  tax-exempt, non-profit corporation
From: Heather1-Gmail [mailto:hrisley1@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 29, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Trish Hickey <thickey@ctsfl.us>
Subject: Red Mangrove

I strongly support the Red Mangrove as Tarpon Springs' official City Tree. It is resilient, hard-working, and unique - just like the residents of Tarpon Springs.

Heather Risley
Mayor Alahouzos and Commissioners -

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs is the oldest church in Tarpon Springs.

I'm the congregation's minister. I'm writing to express my support for the proposal to recognize the red mangrove tree as the official tree for Tarpon Springs.

The red mangrove is identified with Florida. It provides a home for many species. However, there is something else that needs to be said. During major storms, our mangrove trees act as a buffer, reducing wave action, preventing erosion, and absorbing flood waters. As environmental problems like sea level rise develop, the mangrove trees will become increasingly important (and appreciated.) These trees help to protect Tarpon Springs and the mangrove trees need our assistance.

I ask you to recognize the red mangrove as being the official tree for Tarpon Springs.

I request, also, that you make a continuing effort to educate citizens about sea level rise, coastal flooding, and the importance of the red mangrove. The Earth Day celebration (April 22) in Tarpon Springs provides an important opportunity for environmental education. I would like to work with you, and with different community and religious organizations, to help create Earth Day events that all people can enjoy. The red mangrove can receive some special recognition on Earth Day.

Please let me know when the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs can provide volunteer assistance to Tarpon Springs.

Please include this letter with the Commission's records. Thank you.

With best wishes,
Rev. Robert Murphy
minister, Unitarian Universalist Church
57 Read Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

murphydalzell@aol.com
November 4, 2016

Mayor Chris Alahouzos
Tarpon Springs City Council
City Hall
Tarpon Springs, FL

Dear Mayor Alahouzos and City Council Members:

On behalf of the GFWC Woman’s Club of Tarpon Springs, I am sending our club’s endorsement and support of the City of Tarpon Springs adopting the Red Mangrove as its City Tree.

Everywhere you go in Tarpon Springs you see the Mangrove surrounding our many bodies of water. They are a habitat for the various species of birds, and the roots are habitats for various forms of sea life.

They seem to symbolize Tarpon Springs, and I and my club feel that they are a fitting visual symbol for our city. It is our hope that you will adopt them as our city’s official tree.

Sincerely

Trish Gregory
President, GFWC Woman’s Club of Tarpon Springs
peg3400@gmail.com
727-943-8677

submitted via email on 11/4/16
November 11, 2016

Dear Tarpon Springs City Council:

I am writing to you in support of the City of Tarpon Springs adopting the Red Mangrove as its City Tree. The Red Mangrove is a symbol of Tarpon Springs and its beautiful shoreline. As a third generation citizen of Tarpon Springs I can attest that the Red Mangrove is a tree that truly represents the citizens of this city, due to its ability to thrive in some of the harshest and most beautiful environments. As a childcare provider I look forward to our city adopting a city tree, so that we may use this as an opportunity to teach our students about the wonderful environment and ecosystems that thrives in our community and many of our backyards. We believe that when children are taught the why, when and how of their world that they become a part of it and a deep want to keeps their environment protected.

Thank you

Bonnie Fasee

Bonnie Fasee, Director,
Right Track Before & After Care
From: Siobhan Nehin [mailto:snehin@me.com]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 3:43 PM
To: Trish Hickey <thickey@ctsfl.us>
Subject: Red Mangrove tree/ official Tarpon Springs Tree

Dear Tarpon Springs City Council,

The Garden Fairies along with the Suncoast Sierra Club, endorse the idea presented in a recent commissioners meeting that the City of Tarpon Springs adopt the Red Mangrove as the official Tarpon Springs Tree.

The relationship between the Red Mangrove and their associated marine life cannot be overemphasized. Tarpon Springs with it's working waterfront is wise to recognize and honor the value the Red Mangrove has to our community.

Siobhan Nehin
Queen of the Garden Fairies
www.wedigdoinit.com
726 Charlotte Ave. Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
November 22, 2016

Dear Mayor Alahouzos and Tarpon Springs City Council:

On behalf of the members of The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs, Inc., our board of directors writes this letter to support the efforts of Peace 4 Tarpon regarding their initiative for the Red Mangrove to be named as the official City Tree of Tarpon Springs.

The Garden Club and the Woman’s Club of Tarpon Springs had their origins in the Town Improvement Association of Tarpon Springs in the 1890’s. A group of Tarpon Springs women were motivated by their civic interest then and we remain so dedicated today.

Our support for the Red Mangrove project fits our objectives that include promoting interest in horticulture, advocating civic beautification, aiding in the protection of native plants and the practice of wise conservation measures.

Not only does the Red Mangrove recognition as the City Tree of Tarpon Springs beautify our environment but it also stands for the objectives of Peace 4 Tarpon to include symbolizing a community based on caring for others in need.

Sincerely,

Kary Papsis, President
Alice Morgan, 1st Vice President
Barbara Garrelts, 2nd Vice President
Pandora Mahabir, 3rd Vice President
Sherri Patterson, Correspondence Secretary
Mariflor Cremonie, Treasurer
Directors: Pat Dugan, Pat Coughin,
           Marliyn Glaus